GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Revenue – Endowments Department – General Administration (Vigilance & Enforcement) Department – Certain irregularities noticed in the works undertaken by Sri Bramarambha Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandyala District – Recommendation for initiation of departmental action against Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad and Sri K.V. Sagar Babu, the then Executive Officers, Sri Bramarambha Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandyala District – Common disciplinary proceedings initiated under Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991 – Charges framed – Inquiry Officer appointed – Inquiry report submitted – Further explanation received – Further action dropped – Orders – Issued

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REVENUE (VIGILANCE-VII) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No.441 **Dated:19-05-2025**
Read the following:-

1) From the Director General (V&E) & E.O. Prl.Secy to Govt., Report No.108 (644/V&E/E/2016), Dated.16.11.2017.
2) G.O.Rt.No.626 Revenue (Vig.IV) Department, Dated 13-12-2018.
3) G.O.Rt.No.1758 Revenue (Vig.IV) Department, Dated 13-12-2018.
4) G.O.Rt.No.1759 Revenue (Vig.IV) Department, Dated 13-12-2018
5) From Sri S.S.Chandra Sekhar Azad, Joint Commissioner O/o CED, A.P., Vijayawada, Written Statement of Defence, Dated 14-05-2019.
6) From Sri K.V.Sagar Babu, Dy. Commr., & Executive Officer, Sri Nettikanti Anjaneya Swamy Temple, Kasapuram, Written Statement of Defence, Dated.21-05-2019.
7)G.O.Rt.No.1088, Revenue(Vigilance-IV) Department dated 31.10.2019
8)G.O.Rt.No.1089 Revenue(Vigilance-IV) Department dated 31.10.2019
9) Smt D.Padma, IAS, Commissioner of Endowments & Enquiry Officer, D.O.Letter dated.No.VI/20023/2018-1 dt.11.02.2020
10) Govt Memo.No.REV-19021/65/2017-VIG IV, dt.28.02.2020
11) Written explanaton of Sri S.S.Chandra Sekhar Azad, Jt. Commr, O/o CED, dated:28.07.2020.
12. From the Commissioner of Endowments, Letter in Rc.No.V1/20023/4/2018, Dated:10.03.2023 and dated:16.05.2024.

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ORDER:

Whereas, in the reference 1st read above, the Director General, General Administration (Vigilance & Enforcement) Department has submitted a report based on adverse media coverage, highlighting certain irregularities committed by Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad and Sri K.V.Sagar Babu, then Executive Officers, in the execution of developmental works at Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy varla Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandyala District, and recommended initiation of departmental action against the said officers under Rule 24 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

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2. And whereas, after due examination of the above Vigilance Report, the Government have accepted the recommendations therein and accordingly initiated common disciplinary proceedings against Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad and Sri K.V. Sagar Babu, the then Executive Officers, in the reference 2nd read above.

3. And whereas, in the reference 3rd read above, the Government have framed four Articles of Charge against Sri S.S.Chandra Sekhar Azad. The charges pertain to his failure to obtain prior permission from higher authorities before executing newly proposed works involving a complete change in scope, including unauthorized excavation of the hillock without proper planning. He also failed to submit proposals for new items, resulting in a wasteful expenditure of Rs.1.47 crore from Endowments Department funds. Further, he failed to supervise the work adequately and authorized payments of the first and second bills to the agency, which was contrary to the agreement conditions. These acts constitute indiscipline, lack of integrity, and dereliction of duty, in violation of Rule 3(1) and (2) of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

4. And whereas, in the reference 4th read above, the Government have framed six Articles of Charge against Sri K.V. Sagar Babu. The charges include undertaking excavation of the hillock without obtaining prior approval or concluding a supplemental agreement for additional items not included in the original agreement. He also failed to follow proper procedures, resulting in excess payment of Rs.2,73,40,084/- towards the excavation. Further, he failed to supervise the work and made payments of the third, fourth, and fifth bills contrary to agreement conditions. He did not take action to construct any structure at the excavation site for a long period, failed to implement necessary safety measures during the vertical cutting of the hillock, and proposed an additional expenditure of Rs.40.00 lakhs for rectification through safety arrangements. These acts demonstrate indiscipline, lack of integrity, and dereliction of duty, thereby violating Rule 3(1) and (2) of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

5. And whereas, in the references 5th and 6th read above, both Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad and Sri K.V. Sagar Babu submitted their written statements of defence, which upon examination were found to be not convincing by the Government.

6. And whereas, the Government have decided to conduct a regular inquiry into the charges framed against both officers. Accordingly, Smt. Dr. M. Padma, IAS, has been appointed as the Inquiry Authority, and Sri Chandra Kumar, Additional Commissioner, O/o Commissioner of Endowments, has been appointed as the Presenting Officer, as per the references 7th and 8th read above.

7. And whereas, in the reference 9th read above, the Inquiring Authority has submitted her report to the Government, wherein she has examined the charges framed against Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad and Sri K.V. Sagar Babu. With regard to the first charge against Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad, the Inquiring Authority observed that although a meeting was conducted regarding the proposed works, neither were reports submitted nor was approval obtained from the competent authority. Concerning the second and third charges, the Inquiring Authority reported that the Charged Officer had made payments amounting to Rs.95,47,070/- without obtaining prior sanction. While the works were found to be useful and

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not wasteful, the absence of required administrative sanction was noted. As regards the fourth charge, the Charged Officer claimed urgency and cited safety concerns; however, he failed to obtain the necessary formal approval. The Inquiring Authority, in her overall findings on the charges against Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad, reported that the works executed were generally useful and were carried out as per the technical specifications provided in the estimates. The Charged Officer may have acted in good faith, anticipating post-facto sanctions, but ultimately failed to secure them. Nonetheless, the Inquiring Authority emphasized that adherence to procedural norms is fundamental in any organization, and discipline demands strict compliance with established rules. Therefore, Charge Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 were held as substantiated against Sri S.S.Chandra Sekhar Azad for the irregularities committed during his tenure as Executive Officer, Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy varla Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandyala District, in the execution of the said works. Further, with regard to Sri K.V. Sagar Babu, the Inquiring Authority reported that Charge No. 5 may not be pressed. However, Charge Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 were found to be substantiated for the irregularities committed while functioning as Executive Officer, Sri Bhramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamyvarla Devasthanam, Srisailam.

8. And whereas, after examining the Inquiry Authority's report, the Government, while forwarding the said report to the charged officers Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad and Sri K.V. Sagar Babu, then Executive Officers, through the Commissioner of Endowments Department, invited their written representations under Rule 21(2) of the A.P. Civil Services (CCA) Rules, 1991, as referenced in the 10th read above.In response, Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad, Joint Commissioner, O/o the Commissioner of Endowments, submitted his written representation in the reference 11th read above, whereas Sri K.V. Sagar Babu, Deputy Commissioner, has not submitted his written representation so far.

9. Whereas, in the reference 12th read above, the Commissioner of Endowments reported that the Inquiry Authority had found Charges 1, 2, 3, and 4 to be substantiated. However, the Inquiry Authority also observed that the works undertaken by the charged officers were useful and executed in accordance with the specifications approved by experts. It was further noted that the officers might have initiated the works in good faith, anticipating subsequent approvals. While denying the findings of the Inquiry Officer, the charged officers submitted additional explanations, contending that the lapses pertained solely to procedural sanctions and not to the utility or quality of the works executed. The present Executive Officer of Sri Bramarambha Mallikarjuna Swamy Vari Devasthanam, Srisailam, submitted detailed reports vide R.C. No. E1/2969/2013, dated 27.09.2022 and 16.10.2022, along with revised working estimates, affirming that the works were essential and beneficial to the temple. It was stated that, without such works, the Krishna Pushkarams–2016 could not have been conducted smoothly. It was also confirmed that no financial loss had been incurred by the temple on account of these works. After thorough scrutiny of the reports and revised estimates, the Commissioner of Endowments, in proceedings dated 05.03.2023, ratified the execution of the works at Patalaganga, amounting to Rs.6,92,61,733/-, as the works were undertaken in the larger interest of the temple and for the convenience of visiting devotees. Furthermore, the Commissioner of Endowments, being the competent authority to ratify the actions of Executive Officers, confirmed in his report dated 10.03.2023 that the works were

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beneficial and had not resulted in any financial loss. The Vigilance & Enforcement Department, in its earlier recommendation, had suggested disciplinary action simpliciter, and not severe disciplinary action. In view of the above, the ratification of the actions of the then Executive Officers was found to be justified and appropriate.

10. After careful examination of the entire matter, the Government has accepted the recommendation of the Commissioner of Endowments as detailed in the reference 12th read above and accordingly decided to drop further action against the charged officers, i.e., Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad and Sri K.V. Sagar Babu, former Executive Officers of Sri Bramarambha Mallikarjuna Swamy Vari Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandyala District.

11. Accordingly, Government hereby orders to drop further disciplinary action against Sri S.S. Chandra Sekhar Azad and Sri K.V. Sagar Babu, former Executive Officers, Sri Bramarambha Mallikarjuna Swamy Vari Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandyala District, in the matter.

12. The Commissioner of Endowments, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada, shall take further necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

V.VINAY CHAND
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri S.S.Chandrasekhar Azad,former Executive Officer Sri Bramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandayala District
Sri K.V.Sagar Babu, former Executive Officers, Sri Bramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandayala District *through* the Commissioner of Endowments, Andhra Pradesh,
The Commissioner of Endowments, Andhra Pradesh, A.P., Vijayawada.
The Executive Officer, Sri Bramaramba Mallikarjuna Swamy Varla Devasthanam, Srisailam, Nandayala District.
Copy to:
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Secretariat Buildings, Velagapudi, Guntur Dist.
The Director General, General Administration (V&E) Department, Vijayawada.
The P.S to Hon'ble Minister (Endowment)
The P.S to Spl.Chief Secretary to Govt.,Endowments Department
SC/SF

//FORWARDED :: BY:: ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER